A child very ſoon contracts a benumbing indolence of mind, which he has ſeldom ſufficient vigour afterwards to ſhake off, when he only aſks a queſtion inſtead of ſeeking for information, and then relies implicitly on the anſwer he receives. With his equals in age this could never be the caſe, and the ſubjects of inquiry, though they might be influenced, would not be entirely under the direction of men, who frequently damp, if not deſtroy, abilities, by bringing them forward too haſtily: and too haſtily they will infallibly be brought forward, if the child be confined to the ſociety of a man, however ſagacious that man may be.

Beſides, in youth the ſeeds of every affection ſhould be ſown, and the reſpectful regard, which is felt for a parent, is very different from the ſocial affections that are to conſtitute the happineſs of life as it advances. Of theſe equality is the baſis, and an intercourſe of ſentiments unclogged by that obſervant ſerioufneſs which prevents diſputation, though it may not inforce ſubmiſſion. Let a child have ever ſuch an affection for his parent, he will always languiſh to play and chat with children; and the very reſpect which

which he entertains, for filial eſteem always has a daſh of fear mixed with it, will, if it do not teach him cunning, at leaſt prevent him from pouring out the little ſecrets which firſt open the heart to friendſhip and confidence, gradually leading to more expanſive benevolence. Added to this, he will never acquire that frank ingenuouſneſs of behaviour, which young people can only attain by being frequently in ſociety where they dare to ſpeak what they think; neither afraid of being reproved for their preſumption, nor laughed at for their folly.

Forcibly impreſſed by the reflections which the ſight of ſchools, as they are at preſent conducted, naturally ſuggeſted, I have formerly delivered my opinion rather warmly in favour of a private education; but further experience has led me to view the ſubject in a different light. I ſtill, however, think ſchools, as they are now regulated, the hotbeds of vice and folly, and the knowledge of human nature, ſuppoſed to be attained there, merely cunning ſelfiſhneſs.

At ſchool boys become gluttons and ſlovens, and, inſtead of cultivating domeſtic affections, very early ruſh into the libertiniſm which deſtroys